

INQUEST PRESS RELEASE FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2004

STYAL DEATHS – SECOND OF SIX INQUESTS BEGINS

The inquest into the death of Anna Baker will begin on Monday 8th November at 14.00. Anna was the second of six women to die in a 12 month period at HMP Styal. Anna died on 26th November 2002 after she was found hanging in her cell at approximately 13.50

The inquest is expected to last two weeks.

Anna was on remand and recognised as being at risk from self harm and suicide. The day before her death she was moved from her shared cell to being the sole occupant of a double cell.

Deborah Coles Co-Director of the campaign group INQUEST said:

“This is the first opportunity for Anna’s family to find out the circumstances of her death and for it to be subjected to proper public scrutiny. The inquest will also establish whether any systemic or individual failings contributed to the death. “

There is a crisis in women’s prisons highlighted by the increasing number of deaths and incidents of self-harm. Last year 14 women died in prison and already this year 13 women have died

The family is being represented by INQUEST Lawyers Group members Richard Hermer, barrister and Mark Scott solicitor, Bhatt Murphy solicitors.

Note to Editors

The inquest will take place on Monday November 8th at 14.00
HM Coroner for Cheshire Nicholas Rheinberg
Coroners Court - Warrington Town Hall

Name	Cause	Sex	Ethnicity	Age	Status	DateOfDeath	Classification	Establishment
Julie Walsh	Overdose	F	UK White	39	Unsentenced	12/08/2003	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal
Hayley Williams	Hanging	F	UK White	41	Awaiting Sentence	04/06/2003	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal
Jolene Willis	Hanging	F	UK White	25	Sentenced	20/04/2003	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal
Sarah Campbell	Overdose	F	UK White	18	Sentenced	18/01/2003	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal
Anna Baker	Hanging	F	UK Black	29	Trial	26/11/2002	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal
Nissa Ann Smith	Hanging	F	UK White	20	Remanded	10/08/2002	Self-Inflicted	HMP Styal